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AUTHOR Karlen, Janice M.
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ABSTRACT

The West Essex Extension Center (WEEC) provides a variety of educational services to adults in an off-campus setting. The typical WEEC credit student is a white, female, non-veteran, residing in Essex County, who is attending part-time and for the first time. There is equal probability that the student is married or single. The courses offered for academic credit encompass both career and technical programs, as well as elective courses of general interest. Many courses are offered to meet the needs of continuing education (non-matriculated) students, with the major exceptions being the Criminal Justice and Pre-Nursing curricula. The non-credit offerings are in the areas of the arts, personal finance, and test preparation. Advisement and counseling are conducted at WEEC to meet both academic and personal needs. Other specialized services include those for senior citizens and those offered in conjunction with local high schools. The Title I, Project WHY (Women Help Yourselves) Grant Program is also based at WEEC and has sponsored several conferences, seminars, and events. In addition, WEEC has developed cooperative relationships with community groups such as the Chamber of Commerce, the Essex Theatre Company, and a Center for Continuing Education. Certain goals of WEEC have not yet been met or have been discarded after reevaluation of community needs, e.g., to serve as a Bilingual Counseling Center. (AYC)

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ESSEX COUNTY COLLEGE

Office of Institutional Research

Research Report 80 - 2

PROGRESS REPORT ON THE WEST ESSEX EXTENSION CENTER

JANUARY 1980

Prepared by:

Janice M. Karlen

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Office of Planning and Research
Dr. Beverly Gunstone
Acting Director

Office of Institutional Research
J. Scott Drakulich
Director of Institutional Research

The philosophy of the extension programs at Essex County College has been from the very beginning, to provide a variety of educational services to adults in an off-campus setting that is convenient and familiar to them. It is the purpose of this report to describe the West Essex Extension Center (WEEC) and review how it has attempted to meet this objective as well as those special goals particular to the Center since the Center's opening in Winter 1979.

The demographic characteristics of the population enrolled in courses at the WEEC are contained in Tables 1 through 7 (see pages 2 & 3). A review of these tables causes the "typical" WEEC credit student to be described as a white, female, non-veteran who resides in Essex County, and is attending part-time. There is a slightly greater chance that the student is attending ECC for the first time rather than being a returning student and about an equal probability of the student being married or single. Efforts have been made to expand the student mix through mailings to 100,000 residents of fifteen (15) urban and suburban municipalities County-wide and inclusion of WEEC course offerings in the College schedule book.

The courses offered for academic credit are listed in Table 8 (page 4). They encompass both career and technical programs as well as elective courses of general interest. Since most students at the WEEC are continuing education students, and therefore, non-matriculated, many courses are offered to meet their interests rather than a prescribed set of degree requirements. The exceptions to this are Criminal Justice and Pre-Nursing curricual for which there are approxiamtely fifty (50) majors enrolled in courses specifically relating to the degree program.

The non-credit coruses offered at the WEEC are listed in Table 9 (page 5). They include areas of the arts, personal finance, test preparation and others.

TABLE I

Demographic Characteristics - Sex

	Winter 79	Spring 79	Fall 79
Male	80	23	82
Female	119	57	186
No Data	-	-	2

TABLE 2

Demographic Characteristics - Race

	Winter 79	Spring 79	Fall 79
White	166	65	227
Black	14	2	10
Hispanic	-	-	3
Oriental	1	-	-
Other	1	2	4
No Data	17	11	26

TABLE 3

Demographic Characteristics - Marital Status

	Winter 79	Spring 79	Fall 79
Married	-	41	124
Single	-	33	133
No Data	199	6	13

TABLE 4

Demographic Characteristics - Veteran's Status

	Winter 79	Spring 79	Fall 79
Veteran	-	0	18
Non-Veteran	-	75	241
No Data	199	5	11

TABLE 5

Demographic Characteristics - Residence

	Winter 79	Spring 79	Fall 79
In-County	192	77	263
Out-of-County	7	3	7

TABLE 6

Demographic Characteristics - Enrollment

	Winter 79	Spring 79	Fall 79
New Students	124	-	160
Returning Students	75	-	110
No Data	-	80	-

TABLE 7

Demographic Characteristics - Attendance

	Winter 79	Spring 79 *	Fall 79
Full-Time	24	-	15
Part-Time	175	80	255

* Students may only attend on a Part-Time Basis

COURSE NUMBER		CREDIT COURSE TITLE	Winter	Spring	Fall
ACC	101	Principles of Accounting I	X		X
ANT	101	Cultural Anthropology		X	
ANT	105	Man and His Past	X		
ART	100	Art Appreciation	X		
ART	101	Art History I			X
ART	102	Art History II		X	
ART	103	Fundaments of Art I			X
BIO	121	Anatomy and Physiology I			X
BUS	101	Business Organization and Management			X
BUS	141	Business Mathematics	X		
CJI	101	Introduction to Criminal Justice			X
CJI	136	Criminology	X		X
CJI	202	Crime and Delinquency			X
CJI	210	Forensic Science	X		
ENG	101	College Composition I	X		X
ENG	102	College Composition II	X		
FSI	107	Fire Investigations			X
FSI	108	Fire Tactics	X		X
GRP	101	Group Dynamics	X		
HST	101	World Civilization I	X		X
IPS	111	Basic Systems and Procedures		X	X
ITL	101	Elementary Italian I			X
MTH	100	Introductory College Mathematics			X
MATH	101	Statistics and Probability		X	X
NRS	110	Nursing Aspect of Pharmacology and Nutrition			X
PSY	101	General Psychology I	X		X
PSY	102	General Psychology II		X	
PSY	209	Abnormal Psychology		X	
REP	101	Principles of Real Estate - Salesperson	X		
SEC	121	Business Communications	X		X
SOC	101	Introduction to Sociology			X
SOC	232	Human Sexualities	X	X	
SPN	101	Elementary Spanish I			X
TRL	101	Introduction to Travel			X

NON-CREDIT COURSES

COURSE TITLE	Winter	Spring	Fall
Aerobic Dance	X	X	X*
Assertiveness Training		X	
Ballroom Dancing			X
College Board Prep. - English	X		X
College Board Prep. - Math	X		X
Disco Dancing	X	X	
Estate Planning		X	
GED-English/Social Studies			X
GED-Mathematics/Science			X
Opera-Puccini & Verdi			X
Practical Approach to Financial Planning			X
Total Awareness		X	
Water Colors			X

*Three Sections

The F.T.E. generated by credit and non-credit courses (where applicable) is as follows:

Winter	-	32.8
Spring	-	11.8
Fall	-	42.2
Total	-	84.7

It should be noted that a commitment has been made to Caldwell College and the New Jersey Department of Higher Education not to exceed 100 as the number of F.T.E. generated at WEEC per annum. Based on the increase in Fall 1979 enrollment it is quite possible that this agreement will need to be re-negotiated.

Advisement and counseling are conducted at the WEEC to meet both academic and personal needs. Academic advisement is conducted at the beginning of each semester for the purpose of assisting the student in course selection. Where available, test results are used by the advisor as an aid to proper advisement. General counseling is provided on a weekly basis from 11:00 a.m. until 7:00 p.m. This service is provided for all students who request assistance with academic, vocational or personal problems. In addition, counseling on a full-time basis provided for women as part of the Title I, Project WHY (Women Help Yourselves) Grant.

Among the specialized services provided at the Center include those for senior citizens. Although no courses were designated as being for senior citizens only, Table 10 indicates the number enrolled and courses in which they were registered.

Table 10

Senior Citizen Registration

Winter 1979			Spring 1979			Fall 1979		
Course		N	Course		N	Course		N
ANT	105	4	ANT	101	5	ACC	101	3
ART	100	7	ART	102	7	ART	101	10
CJI	210	1	COM	056	23	ENG	101	4
COM	107	2	COM	058	6	FSI	107	3
ENG	102	1	COM	059	17	HST	101	6
PSY	101	3	COM	114	4	IPS	101	1
REP	101	2	MTH	101	1	ITL	101	2
SOC	232	2	PSY	102	3	MTH	100	2
			SOC	232	1	MTH	101	1
						PSY	101	4
						SOC	101	4
						SPN	101	7
						TRL	101	8

The WEEC also served as catalyst for the maintenance of a closer working relationship with suburban high schools. Among the schools with which the WEEC has cooporated are:

Bloomfield High School

East Orange Catholic High School

Eassex Valley High School

James Caldwell High School

Montclair High School

Montclair Kimberly Academy

St. Mary's High School

Verona High School

West Essex High School

The types of services offered to the high schools are quite varied. Essex Valley High School has participated in a program of college-level instruction for high school students. James Caldwell High School has taken part in a space sharing arrangement as well as two cooperative conferences. All Essex County High Schools joined in a County-Wide Counselors Conference held at the WEEC. College Board (SAT) preparatory courses have been offered every semester and have been

attended by students from various high schools throughout the County.

The Title I, Project WHY (Women Help Yourselves) Grant Program is also based at the WEEC. Some of the conferences and events they have sponsored include seminars on Cultural Awareness, Assertiveness Training, Women in Business, and an open forum on women's educational needs. In addition, WEEC faculty have presented lectures to the Women's Club of Caldwell and participated in their scholarship fund raiser.

While the relationships established with the community are many and varied, the following list provides an overview of the types of activities which have occured:

1. West Essex Chamber of Commerce - The Chamber of Commerce and the WEEC have held cooperative seminars such as the "Pre-Retirement Seminar." They have shown a willingness to support WEEC activities by their participation, assistance and scholarship aid.
2. The Essex Theatre Company - The Company held its first performance at the WEEC.
3. The Caldwell/West Caldwell Board of Education's Center for Continuing Education - The Board of Education has held cooperative seminars with the WEEC such as the "Seminar on Teenage Sexuality."
4. Conference on the International Year of the Child - This conference included participants from government, women's organizations, local residents, and ECC staff and students.

While there are many activities and events in the planning stages, two of those that will occur in the near future are a seminar on Loneliness and a County-Wide Career Day. There have also been ongoing discussions with the Essex County CETA Office concerning the funding for and establishment of twenty (20) secretarial stations for the purpose of serving Title VI CETA employees.

This is not to say that all of the hopes for the WEEC have been met. One of

projects that the Center has not been able to complete is that of becoming a GED, CLEP, and NJCBSPT testing site. This is due to the physical lay-out and the lack of security. Instead, testing information is available to the students as well as courses on GED preparation and counseling services.

Another goal which was not reached was for the WEEC to serve as a bilingual counseling center. At the request of the West Essex Chamber of Commerce and local residents a non-credit ESL course was offered for the Fall 1979 semester. There was insufficient enrollment to warrant running of the course. Therefore, the current population of the WEEC does not support the employment of specialized bilingual personnel.

In terms of the goals of the WEEC, it is apparent that most of the initial objectives have been met. Of those which have not been reached, several are still in the development stage while others may not be as appropriate as originally conceived. The most important issue currently at hand revolves around the WEEC offering the sufficient number and type of courses that would permit a student to complete a degree or certificate program at that location. There is evidence of student support of this concept through the approximately 150 signatures which appeared on a petition addressing the issue. It is appropriate then that serious consideration should be given to the expansion of the center and the development of a timetable for a full academic program offering.

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